

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A system for treating a vascular condition, the system comprising:

a hollow guidewire;

a core wire inserted through the hollow guidewire, the core wire including a tapered undulating section including a plurality of undulations along an axial portion of the core wire, wherein an amplitude of each consecutive undulation varies with axial distance from a proximal end of the core wire, the plurality of undulations frictionally contacting an inner surface of the hollow guidewire when disposed therein; and

an embolic containment device coupled between a distal end of the hollow guidewire and a distal end of the core wire.

Claim 2-3 (canceled):

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the amplitude of each consecutive undulation increases linearly with distance from the proximal end of the core wire.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the amplitude of each consecutive undulation decreases linearly with distance from the proximal end of the core wire.

Claim 6 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the tapered undulating section provides greater friction when the core wire axially translates between a proximal position and a distal position than when the core wire axially translates between the distal position and the proximal position.

Claim 7 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the tapered undulating section provides lesser friction when the core wire axially translates between a proximal position and a

distal position than when the core wire axially translates between the distal position and the proximal position.

Claim 8 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the tapered undulating section of the core wire comprises a crimped set of bends formed in the core wire.

Claim 9 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the embolic containment device comprises an embolic filter.

Claim 10 (original): The system of claim 9 wherein the embolic filter includes a braided wire mesh, and wherein at least a portion of the braided wire mesh is coated with an elastomeric material.

Claim 11 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the embolic containment device is actuated to an expanded configuration when the core wire is translated proximally relative to the hollow guidewire.

Claim 12 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the embolic containment device is actuated to a contracted configuration when the core wire is translated distally relative to the hollow guidewire.

Claim 13 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the embolic containment device comprises an occluder.

Claim 14 (original): The system of claim 13 wherein the occluder blocks fluid flow through a body vessel when the occluder is actuated, the occluder being actuated by an axial translation of the core wire within the hollow guidewire.

Claim 15 (original): The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a coating disposed on at least a portion of the core wire, wherein the coating reduces friction between the coated portions of the core wire and an inner surface of the hollow guidewire.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method of treating a vascular condition, the method comprising:

providing a core wire inserted through a hollow guidewire, the core wire including a tapered undulating section including a plurality of undulations along an axial portion of the core wire, wherein an amplitude of each consecutive undulation varies with axial distance from a proximal end of the core wire, the plurality of undulations frictionally contacting an inner surface of the hollow guidewire when disposed therein;

providing an embolic containment device coupled between a distal end of the hollow guidewire and a distal end of the core wire;

axially translating the core wire in a first direction relative to the hollow guidewire to expand the embolic containment device; and

axially translating the core wire in a second direction relative to the hollow guidewire to contract the embolic containment device.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 further comprising:

capturing embolic material when the embolic containment device is expanded.

Claim 18 (canceled):

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the embolic containment device includes one of an embolic filter and an occluder.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A guidewire-based embolic containment system comprising:

a hollow guidewire;

a core wire slidably inserted through the hollow guidewire, the core wire including frictional control means disposed within the hollow guidewire such that axial movement of the core wire within the hollow guidewire is easier in a first direction than in a second, opposite direction; and

an embolic containment device coupled between a distal end of the hollow guidewire and a distal end of the core wire.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The guidewire-based embolic containment system of claim 20 wherein the axial movement of the core wire within the hollow guidewire is easier in a distal direction than in a proximal direction.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The guidewire-based embolic containment system of claim 20 wherein the embolic containment device comprises an embolic filter.